

Teams That Thrive: Five Disciplines of Collaborative Church Leadership

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>> 2015 Readers' Choice Award Winner

>> Outreach Magazine's Resources of the Year It's increasingly clear that leadership should be shared—for the good of any organization and for the good of the leader. Many churches have begun to share key leadership duties, but don't know how to take their leadership team to the point where it thrives. Others seriously need a new approach to leadership: pastors are tired, congregations are stuck, and meanwhile the work never lets up. But what does it actually mean to do leadership well as a team? How can it be done in a way that avoids frustration and burnout? How does team leadership best equip the staff and bless a congregation? What do the top church teams do to actually thrive together? Researchers and practitioners Ryan Hartwig and Warren Bird have discovered churches of various sizes and traditions throughout the United States who have learned to thrive under healthy team leadership. Using actual church examples, they present their discoveries here, culminating in five disciplines that, if implemented, can enable your team to thrive. The result? A coaching tool for senior leadership teams that enables struggling teams to thrive, and resources teams doing well to do their work even better.

Ryan Hartwig

(PhD, University of Colorado) is associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and associate professor of communication at Azusa Pacific University.

Warren Bird

(PhD, Fordham University) is research director for Leadership Network, and has authored or coauthored over twenty books for ministry leaders. "At Saddleback we've shared leadership from the beginning. While it's not always been easy, it's absolutely been worth it. This insightful book, with its strong research, real-life stories and practical how-tos, makes it easier for you to build a strong, thriving senior leadership team." (Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church and author of The Purpose Driven Life and The Purpose Driven Church)

"As someone who is passionate about helping teams become more productive and healthy, I strongly recommend Teams That Thrive. It draws out best practices and principles from hundreds of leadership teams, pulls together top marketplace research and then illustrates them with stories from churches at every level. I encourage you not to simply read it yourself, but to read it and work through it with your team. It will make you better. It will help you thrive." (Larry Osborne, pastor of North Coast Church and author of Sticky Teams)

"In Teams That Thrive, Ryan and Warren provide the church with valuable insight from research rooted in biblical principles to create a picture of team leadership that is sound and scriptural. Whether your church is two hundred or two thousand, whether your team is two or twenty-five, this book will be an essential resource." (Ed Stetzer, LifeWay Research, www.edstetzer.com)

"The most effective churches in America today have strong leaders who surround themselves with a smart team of leaders. Finally, a practical book on leadership that helps churches develop the right kind of team to lead their church forward. This book is long

overdue, greatly needed and high on my recommendation list." (Jim Tomberlin, founder, MultiSite Solutions, author, Better Together)

"We know that we're supposed to like working in teams, but how many of us actually get excited when we hear the word teamwork? It isn't that we hate working with others, it's just that more often than not teams seem to make things harder, not easier. Fortunately, in Teams That Thrive, Ryan and Warren promise it doesn't have to be that way. Read this book and start creating teams that work!" (Greg Surratt, founding pastor of Seacoast Church)

"Serious leaders are serious about their teams because something extraordinary happens when a team thrives, something much greater than the sum of its parts. Teams That Thrive is an unusual blend of spirit and practice. It is fresh, deep and eminently helpful!" (Nancy Ortberg, author of Lessons in Non-Linear Leadership)

"This practical book is full of tips and tools that church leadership teams can use to become better and to increase in impact. Teams That Thrive will be a great help to my own team as we help church leadership teams get unstuck." (Tony Morgan, founder and chief strategic officer of the Unstuck Group, author of Take the Lid Off Your Church)

"I can't think of a better, more needed topic than Teams That Thrive. The ability to build a culture of collaboration and team leadership is crucial to anyone's effectiveness in ministry. For years, Warren Bird has been a go-to expert for pastors wanting to learn how to do things better, and here he teams well with university professor Ryan Hartwig to pull together top research and great examples." (Dino Rizzo, executive director of the Association of Related Churches, author of Servolution)

"I wish I had read this book at the beginning of my ministry career! Teams That Thrive is an incredible resource to help you and your team rethink how you lead. Packed with outstanding research, helpful tips, practical wisdom and thoughts from expert commentators, this book is the how-to resource you need to move your team (and your church) from simply surviving to thriving." (Jenni Catron, church leader and author of Clout)

"In this rigorous and readable treatment of church leadership teams, Warren Bird and Ryan Hartwig show how shared leadership and an effective team at the top not only ensure high-functioning church operations, but they also provide the model for a thriving congregation and a healthy community culture. Teams That Thrive provides practical solutions and inspiring wisdom to those who would elevate their team leadership capacity in ways that genuinely contribute to effective, purposive and growing church communities." (Ruth Wageman, author of Senior Leadership Teams)

Other Books

Human Relations. This contemporary text will connect you with the current human relations issues and challenges you will encounter in the twenty-first century and will prepare you to confidently put proven theory into action-so you get the results you want. Authors Dalton, Hoyle, and Watts use a unique approach that gives you the opportunity to experience and

analyze firsthand the contemporary issues of human relations in the twenty-first century. By weaving their varied professional backgrounds and knowledge into every chapter, they provide the insight and awareness that comes only from experience. Based on the sound content and research of the previous edition, Human Relations 3E aims to deliver a dynamic and real-world perspective to human relations.

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